



## Geauga County Job & Family Services Foster/Adoptive/Kinship Newsletter



### November is National Adoption Month



November is National Adoption Month. The first major effort to promote awareness of the need for adoptive families for children in foster care occurred in Massachusetts in 1976, when Governor Michael Dukakis announced an Adoption Week. The idea grew in popularity and spread nationwide. In 1984, President Reagan proclaimed the first National Adoption Week, and in 1995, under President Clinton, the week was expanded to the entire month of November.

Every November, a Presidential Proclamation launches activities and celebrations to help build awareness of adoption throughout the nation. Thousands of community organizations arrange and host programs, events, and activities to share positive adoption stories, challenge the myths, and draw attention to the thousands of children in foster care who are waiting for permanent families.

The Dave Thomas Foundation, founder of Wendy's restaurants, is hosting a National Adoption Day in an effort to raise awareness of the more than 100,000 children in foster care waiting for permanent, loving families. National Adoption Day is November 17, 2012.

In Ohio there are over 6,000 children waiting for a permanent family. The state is hosting an event where they are gathering donated picture frames. There will be one frame for every child who is available for adoption in the state of Ohio. The frames, along with the kids' pictures will be displayed in Columbus on November 14, 2012. In Geauga County there are 7 children waiting for a permanent family. If you are interested in being a foster or adoptive parent or know of someone please call 440-285-9141 X1224.

### Relatives Raising Children

The following data is from **GrandFacts**, a fact sheet that includes state-specific data about foster care, public benefits, educational assistance and state laws. Visit [www.grandfactsheets.org](http://www.grandfactsheets.org) for additional information.

#### Ohio

The Children	The Grandparents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 233,699 children under age 18 live in homes where the householders are grandparents or other relatives (8.9% of the children in the state.) (U.S. 2010 Census)</li> <li>◆ 90,673 children live in homes with grandparent householders where grandparents are responsible for them. Of these, 38861 have no parents present in the home.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 91,513 grandparents are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them. Of these:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ 44% have no parents of the children present in the home</li> <li>◆ 70% are under age 60</li> <li>◆ 19% live in poverty</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ 6,221 grandparents in Columbus city and 6,094 in Cleveland city are the householders and are responsible for their grandchildren living with them.</li> </ul>

## “I’m Bored”



"I'm bored!, There's nothing to do!" I'm sure you've heard that before! We have found a great website loaded with child and family friendly activities that can be found around the Cleveland area.

Events range from activities at libraries, parks, community festivals and more.

The site is called "Macaroni Kid Cleveland East." You can sign up to get weekly emails of activities as well as create your own list of events that you want to attend.

Check it out at: <http://clevelandeast.macaronikid.com>

## More Great Family Fun

Cleveland Museum of Art: free admission every day Cleveland Museum of Art 11150 East Blvd. Cleveland, OH 44106 216-421-7340 [clevelandart.org](http://clevelandart.org)

Federal Reserve Bank Money Museum ; Free to public open Monday thru Thursdays Federal Reserve Bank Money Museum 1455 East 6th St. Cleveland, OH 44114-2566 216-579-2000 [federalreserve.org](http://federalreserve.org)

International Women's Air & Space Museum: free and open 7 days a week International Women's Air & Space Museum Burke Lakefront Airport 1501 North Marginal Rd. Cleveland, OH 44114 216-623-1111 [iwasm.org](http://iwasm.org)

The Christmas Story House: Open all year long. 3159 W 11<sup>th</sup> street in Cleveland **Information: (216) 298-4919 or [info@achristmasstoryhouse.com](mailto:info@achristmasstoryhouse.com)**

Veteran's Day Weekend: Free admission at all National Parks. This includes the Garfield House in Mentor Ohio [www.nps.gov/jaga](http://www.nps.gov/jaga) **440-255-8722**

Free Zoo Admission on Thanksgiving Day - See the animals enjoy a special dinner. For more details contact the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

## Child Spotlight of the Month Kayla — DOB January 1995



Kayla is usually pleasant and takes pride in her appearance. Kayla is a very sociable and energetic child.

Kayla has been consistently doing well in school. She is able to sit nicely, stay on task, raise her hand, and complete most assignments. Kayla is on track to graduate in June. She enjoys art as well as listening to music.

Kayla's favorite sport is volleyball. She also enjoys basketball. Kayla takes pride in the things she is able to cook and bake.

Kayla is on medication to help her with her depression and it seems to be working pretty well.

Kayla would like to maintain contact with her sisters and aunts. They have consistently been a part of her life and she would like it to stay that way. Kayla was recently placed in an Independent Living Skills program, as she is nearing eighteen.

If you are interested in hearing more about Kayla or feel you can give her the support she needs, please contact Kelly Conroy at 440-285-9141 ext.1214.



## Trust Based



Trust-Based Relational Intervention® is a system of interventions that is primarily focused on children who have been exposed to abusive and neglectful situations who enter domestic and international foster and adoptive systems and institutionalization. Trust-Based Relational Intervention®, (or Trust Based Parenting, as we in Geauga County are calling it) was developed by Dr. Karyn Purvis, Ph.D. and Dr. David Cross, Ph.D., of the Child Development Institute at Texas Christian University.

### Program Description:

The Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI®) approach is a family relation-based intervention that is designed for families of children who have experienced relation-based traumas such as abuse, neglect, multiple separations

and placements, and institutionalization. Emphasis is on three intervention principles:

- ◆ Empowering Principles (creating an environment in which survivors of trauma feel they are safe, predictability, well managed transitions, and physiology; nutritional neuroscience, sensory integration, hydration and safe touch)
- ◆ Connecting Principles (awareness, engagement, understanding trauma and fear behaviors)
- ◆ Correcting Principles (preventive and re-directive strategies)

The goal is to educate families and professionals on a physical, neuro-chemical, and developmental impact in our population of at-risk children (children from hard places) as well as to provide simple and effective ways to help children build trust, form attachments, and reach their full potential.

The strategies used in Trust Based Parenting are fully researched evidence based strategies that have proven to be effective with children “from hard places.”

Opportunity for playful engagement and safe interactions are at the foundation of this approach to correct and balance brain chemistry as well as accurately assess, identify and treat sensory integration issues. Use of value scripts, role plays, and redo's are prevalent as well as conveying importance of appropriate nutrition and stabilized blood sugar to provide greatest opportunity for success. This trauma-informed approach is currently being introduced in Geauga County.

*The above article was contributed by Ann Bagley - Trainer, Regional Training Center*

## 2012 Sponsor A Family

The Sponsor a Family Program assists low income families, kinship families, and foster children with help for the holidays.

Applications are automatically mailed to families currently receiving food stamps.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or would like to apply for help, please contact your social worker or Sara Shininger, Community Support and Volunteer Coordinator at 440-285-9141, ext. 1263.



## Holiday Noise Makers

Help your child recycle empty ribbon spools into colorful New Year's Eve noisemakers .

### Materials:

- ◆ Empty ribbon spools
- ◆ Pencil
- ◆ Masking tape
- ◆ Dried peas or beans
- ◆ Acrylic Paint
- ◆ Colorful stickers



### Instructions:

1. See if the holes on the side of your ribbon spool is covered by the ribbon's labels. If so, use a pencil to poke through the label over 1 of the holes; if not, cover 1 hole with masking tape.
2. Pour a handful of dried peas or beans into the spool through the open hole, then seal the hole with tape.
3. Coat the shaker with acrylic paint, let it dry, then decorate it with colorful stickers.

## Recipes

### Seven Layer Taco Dip

#### Ingredients:

- 1 (1 ounce) package taco seasoning mix
- 1 (16 ounce) can refried beans
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (16 ounce) container sour cream
- 1 (16 ounce) jar salsa
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 bunch chopped green onions
- 1 small head lettuce, shredded
- 1 (6 ounce) can sliced black olives, drained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- Tortilla chips



#### Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, blend the taco seasoning mix and refried beans. Spread the mixture onto a large serving platter.
2. Mix the sour cream and cream cheese in a medium bowl. Spread over the refried beans.
3. Top the layers with salsa. Place a layer of tomato, green bell pepper, green onions and lettuce over the salsa, and top with Cheddar cheese. Garnish with black olives.

### Buttery Soft Pretzels

#### Ingredients:

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|--|--------------------------------|
| 4 teaspoons active dry yeast                     | 1 teaspoon white sugar         |
| 1 ¼ cups warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C) | 5 cups all-purpose flour       |
| ½ cup white sugar                                | 1 ½ teaspoon salt              |
| 1 tablespoon vegetable oil                       | ½ cup baking soda              |
| 4 cups hot water                                 | ¼ cup kosher salt, for topping |



#### Directions:

1. In a small bowl, dissolve yeast and 1 teaspoon sugar in warm water. Let stand until creamy, about 10 minutes.
2. In a large bowl, mix together flour, 1/2 cup sugar, and salt. Make a well in the center; add the oil and yeast mixture. Mix and form into a dough ball. If the mixture is dry, add one or two tablespoons of water. Knead the dough until smooth, about 7 to 8 minutes. Lightly oil a large bowl, place the dough in the bowl and turn to coat with oil. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled in size, about 1 hour.
3. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C). In a large bowl, dissolve baking soda in hot water.
4. When risen, turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and divide into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a rope and twist into a pretzel shape. Once all of the dough is all shaped, dip each pretzel into the baking soda solution and place on a greased baking sheet. Sprinkle with kosher salt.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 8 minutes, until browned.